

## Overview of Query Evaluation

[R&G] Chapter 12

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## Overview of Query Evaluation

- ❖ **Plan:** *Tree of R.A. ops, with choice of alg for each op.*
  - Each operator typically implemented using a 'pull' interface: when an operator is 'pulled' for the next output tuples, it 'pulls' on its inputs and computes them.
- ❖ Two main issues in query optimization:
  - For a given query, **what plans are considered?**
    - Algorithm to search plan space for cheapest (estimated) plan.
  - How is the **cost of a plan estimated?**
- ❖ **Ideally:** Want to find best plan. **Practically:** Avoid worst plans!
- ❖ We will study the System R approach.

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## Some Common Techniques

- ❖ Algorithms for evaluating relational operators use some simple ideas extensively:
  - **Indexing:** Can use WHERE conditions to retrieve small set of tuples (selections, joins)
  - **Iteration:** Sometimes, faster to scan all tuples even if there is an index. (And sometimes, we can scan the data entries in an index instead of the table itself.)
  - **Partitioning:** By using sorting or hashing, we can partition the input tuples and replace an expensive operation by similar operations on smaller inputs.

\* Watch for these techniques as we discuss query evaluation!

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## Statistics and Catalogs

- ❖ Need information about the relations and indexes involved. **Catalogs** typically contain at least:
  - # tuples (NTuples) and # pages (NPages) for each relation.
  - # distinct key values (NKeys) and NPages for each index.
  - Index height, low/high key values (Low/High) for each tree index.
- ❖ Catalogs updated periodically.
  - Updating whenever data changes is too expensive; lots of approximation anyway, so slight inconsistency ok.
- ❖ More detailed information (e.g., histograms of the values in some field) are sometimes stored.

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## Access Paths

- ❖ An **access path** is a method of retrieving tuples:
  - File scan, or index that **matches** a selection (in the query)
- ❖ A tree index **matches** (a conjunction of) terms that involve only attributes in a *prefix* of the search key.
  - E.g., Tree index on  $\langle a, b, c \rangle$  **matches** the selection  $a=5$  AND  $b=3$ , and  $a=5$  AND  $b>6$ , but not  $b=3$ .
- ❖ A hash index **matches** (a conjunction of) terms that has a term *attribute = value* for every attribute in the search key of the index.
  - E.g., Hash index on  $\langle a, b, c \rangle$  **matches**  $a=5$  AND  $b=3$  AND  $c=5$ ; but it does not match  $b=3$ , or  $a=5$  AND  $b=3$ , or  $a>5$  AND  $b=3$  AND  $c=5$ .

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## A Note on Complex Selections

$(day < 8/9/94 \text{ AND } rname = 'Paul') \text{ OR } bid = 5 \text{ OR } sid = 3$

- ❖ Selection conditions are first converted to **conjunctive normal form (CNF)**:  
 $(day < 8/9/94 \text{ OR } bid = 5 \text{ OR } sid = 3) \text{ AND } (rname = 'Paul' \text{ OR } bid = 5 \text{ OR } sid = 3)$
- ❖ We only discuss case with no ORs; see text if you are curious about the general case.

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## One Approach to Selections

- ❖ Find the *most selective access path*, retrieve tuples using it, and apply any remaining terms that don't **match** the index:
  - *Most selective access path*: An index or file scan that we estimate will require the fewest page I/Os.
  - Terms that match this index reduce the number of tuples *retrieved*; other terms are used to discard some retrieved tuples, but do not affect number of tuples/pages fetched.
  - Consider *day<8/9/94 AND bid=5 AND sid=3*. A B+ tree index on *day* can be used; then, *bid=5* and *sid=3* must be checked for each retrieved tuple. Similarly, a hash index on *<bid, sid>* could be used; *day<8/9/94* must then be checked.

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## Using an Index for Selections

- ❖ Cost depends on #qualifying tuples, and clustering.
  - Cost of finding qualifying data entries (typically small) plus cost of retrieving records (could be large w/o clustering).
  - In example, assuming uniform distribution of names, about 10% of tuples qualify (100 pages, 10000 tuples). With a clustered index, cost is little more than 100 I/Os; if unclustered, upto 10000 I/Os!

```
SELECT *  
FROM Reserves R  
WHERE R.rname < 'C%'
```

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## Projection

```
SELECT DISTINCT  
R.sid, R.bid  
FROM Reserves R
```

- ❖ The expensive part is removing duplicates.
  - SQL systems don't remove duplicates unless the keyword **DISTINCT** is specified in a query.
- ❖ **Sorting Approach**: Sort on *<sid, bid>* and remove duplicates. (Can optimize this by dropping unwanted information while sorting.)
- ❖ **Hashing Approach**: Hash on *<sid, bid>* to create partitions. Load partitions into memory one at a time, build in-memory hash structure, and eliminate duplicates.
- ❖ If there is an index with both *R.sid* and *R.bid* in the search key, may be cheaper to sort data entries!

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### Join: Index Nested Loops

```
foreach tuple r in R do
  foreach tuple s in S where ri == sj do
    add <r, s> to result
```

- ❖ If there is an index on the join column of one relation (say S), can make it the inner and exploit the index.
  - Cost:  $M + (M * p_R) * \text{cost of finding matching S tuples}$
  - $M = \# \text{pages of R}$ ,  $p_R = \# \text{R tuples per page}$
- ❖ For each R tuple, cost of probing S index is about 1.2 for hash index, 2-4 for B+ tree. Cost of then finding S tuples (assuming Alt. (2) or (3) for data entries) depends on clustering.
  - Clustered index: 1 I/O (typical), unclustered: upto 1 I/O per matching S tuple.

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### Examples of Index Nested Loops

- ❖ Hash-index (Alt. 2) on *sid* of Sailors (as inner):
  - Scan Reserves: 1000 page I/Os, 100\*1000 tuples.
  - For each Reserves tuple: 1.2 I/Os to get data entry in index, plus 1 I/O to get (the exactly one) matching Sailors tuple. Total: 220,000 I/Os.
- ❖ Hash-index (Alt. 2) on *sid* of Reserves (as inner):
  - Scan Sailors: 500 page I/Os, 80\*500 tuples.
  - For each Sailors tuple: 1.2 I/Os to find index page with data entries, plus cost of retrieving matching Reserves tuples. Assuming uniform distribution, 2.5 reservations per sailor (100,000 / 40,000). Cost of retrieving them is 1 or 2.5 I/Os depending on whether the index is clustered.

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### Join: Sort-Merge ( $R \bowtie_{i=j} S$ )

- ❖ Sort R and S on the join column, then scan them to do a "merge" (on join col.), and output result tuples.
  - Advance scan of R until current R-tuple  $\geq$  current S tuple, then advance scan of S until current S-tuple  $\geq$  current R tuple; do this until current R tuple = current S tuple.
  - At this point, all R tuples with same value in  $R_i$  (current R group) and all S tuples with same value in  $S_j$  (current S group) *match*; output  $\langle r, s \rangle$  for all pairs of such tuples.
  - Then resume scanning R and S.
- ❖ R is scanned once; each S group is scanned once per matching R tuple. (Multiple scans of an S group are likely to find needed pages in buffer.)

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## Example of Sort-Merge Join

sid	sname	rating	age	sid	bid	day	rname
22	dustin	7	45.0	28	103	12/4/96	guppy
28	yuppy	9	35.0	28	103	11/3/96	yuppy
31	lubber	8	55.5	31	101	10/10/96	dustin
44	guppy	5	35.0	31	102	10/12/96	lubber
58	rusty	10	35.0	31	101	10/11/96	lubber
				58	103	11/12/96	dustin

- ❖ **Cost:**  $M \log M + N \log N + (M+N)$ 
  - The cost of scanning,  $M+N$ , could be  $M*N$  (very unlikely!)
- ❖ With 35, 100 or 300 buffer pages, both Reserves and Sailors can be sorted in 2 passes; total join cost: 7500.

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## Highlights of System R Optimizer

- ❖ **Impact:**
  - Most widely used currently; works well for  $< 10$  joins.
- ❖ **Cost estimation:** Approximate art at best.
  - Statistics, maintained in system catalogs, used to estimate cost of operations and result sizes.
  - Considers combination of CPU and I/O costs.
- ❖ **Plan Space:** Too large, must be pruned.
  - Only the space of *left-deep plans* is considered.
    - Left-deep plans allow output of each operator to be *pipelined* into the next operator without storing it in a temporary relation.
  - Cartesian products avoided.

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## Cost Estimation

- ❖ For each plan considered, must estimate cost:
  - Must **estimate cost** of each operation in plan tree.
    - Depends on input cardinalities.
    - We've already discussed how to estimate the cost of operations (sequential scan, index scan, joins, etc.)
  - Must also **estimate size of result** for each operation in tree!
    - Use information about the input relations.
    - For selections and joins, assume independence of predicates.

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## Size Estimation and Reduction Factors

```
SELECT attribute list
FROM relation list
WHERE term1 AND ... AND termk
```

- ❖ Consider a query block:
- ❖ Maximum # tuples in result is the product of the cardinalities of relations in the FROM clause.
- ❖ **Reduction factor (RF)** associated with each *term* reflects the impact of the *term* in reducing result size. **Result cardinality = Max # tuples \* product of all RF's.**
  - Implicit assumption that *terms* are independent!
  - Term *col=value* has RF  $1/NKeys(I)$ , given index I on *col*
  - Term *col1=col2* has RF  $1/MAX(NKeys(I1), NKeys(I2))$
  - Term *col>value* has RF  $(High(I)-value)/(High(I)-Low(I))$

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## Schema for Examples

Sailors (*sid*: integer, *sname*: string, *rating*: integer, *age*: real)  
 Reserves (*sid*: integer, *bid*: integer, *day*: dates, *rname*: string)

- ❖ Similar to old schema; *rname* added for variations.
- ❖ Reserves:
  - Each tuple is 40 bytes long, 100 tuples per page, 1000 pages.
- ❖ Sailors:
  - Each tuple is 50 bytes long, 80 tuples per page, 500 pages.

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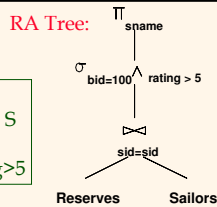
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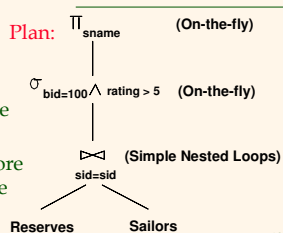
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## Motivating Example

```
SELECT S.sname
FROM Reserves R, Sailors S
WHERE R.sid=S.sid AND
      R.bid=100 AND S.rating>5
```



- ❖ Cost:  $500+500*1000$  I/Os
- ❖ By no means the worst plan!
- ❖ Misses several opportunities: selections could have been 'pushed' earlier, no use is made of any available indexes, etc.
- ❖ Goal of optimization: To find more efficient plans that compute the same answer.



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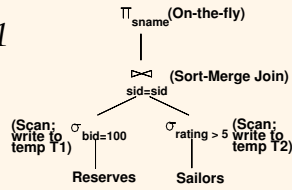
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## Alternative Plans 1 (No Indexes)



- ❖ **Main difference: push selects.**
- ❖ With 5 buffers, **cost of plan:**
  - Scan Reserves (1000) + write temp T1 (10 pages, if we have 100 boats, uniform distribution).
  - Scan Sailors (500) + write temp T2 (250 pages, if we have 10 ratings).
  - Sort T1 ( $2^2 \cdot 10$ ), sort T2 ( $2^3 \cdot 250$ ), merge (10+250)
  - **Total: 3560 page I/Os.**
- ❖ If we used BNL join, join cost =  $10 + 4 \cdot 250$ , **total cost = 2770.**
- ❖ If we 'push' projections, T1 has only *sid*, T2 only *sid* and *sname*:
  - T1 fits in 3 pages, cost of BNL drops to under 250 pages, **total < 2000.**

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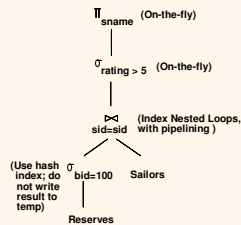
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## Alternative Plans 2 With Indexes



- ❖ With clustered index on *bid* of Reserves, we get  $100,000/100 = 1000$  tuples on  $1000/100 = 10$  pages.
- ❖ INL with **pipelining** (outer is not materialized).
  - Projecting out unnecessary fields from outer doesn't help.
- v Join column *sid* is a key for Sailors.
  - At most one matching tuple, unclustered index on *sid* OK.
- v Decision not to push  $rating > 5$  before the join is based on availability of *sid* index on Sailors.
- v **Cost:** Selection of Reserves tuples (10 I/Os); for each, must get matching Sailors tuple ( $1000 \cdot 1.2$ ); total **1210 I/Os.**

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## Summary

- ❖ There are several alternative evaluation algorithms for each relational operator.
- ❖ A query is evaluated by converting it to a tree of operators and evaluating the operators in the tree.
- ❖ Must understand query optimization in order to fully understand the performance impact of a given database design (relations, indexes) on a workload (set of queries).
- ❖ Two parts to optimizing a query:
  - Consider a set of alternative plans.
    - Must prune search space; typically, left-deep plans only.
  - Must estimate cost of each plan that is considered.
    - Must estimate size of result and cost for each plan node.
    - *Key issues:* Statistics, indexes, operator implementations.

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